

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of programming a schedule of a controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~one~~ two or more interview questions to a user via the user interface, each of the two or more interview questions elicit a numerical time and/or a numerical temperature as a response;

accepting one or more user responses from the user via the user interface, in a non-graphical form, to the ~~one~~ two or more interview questions ~~from the user via the user interface~~;

and

creating and/or modifying one or more of the schedule parameters based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that elicit an affirmative or negative user response.

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3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that elicit a "YES" or a "NO" user response.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are natural language questions.
5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are phrases.
6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are phrases having three or more words.
7. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are audible.
8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the accepting step comprises accepting one or more user aural responses.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more HVAC schedule parameters.
10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.
11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more security system schedule parameters.
12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more lighting schedule parameters.
13. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions related to, which weekdays have a same schedule, when a first person wakes up, when a last person goes to sleep, when a last person leaves during the day, when a first person arrives home, what a comfortable temperature is when heat is on, what a comfortable temperature is when air conditioning is on, what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in summer, or what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in winter.

14. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

15. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that further display a previous answer that was accepted by the user interface.

16. (currently amended) A controller comprising:  
a programmable schedule, the schedule having a number of schedule parameters; and  
a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ~~one~~ two or more interview questions to a user, and to accept ~~one or more~~ a numerical value for each of at least two of the two or more interview questions as user responses ~~to the one two or more interview questions from the user,~~ said at least two of the two or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to a comfort temperature level of the user, and at least one different question relating to a schedule of the user;

wherein, ~~the~~ one or more of the schedule parameters are modified based on the user responses ~~provided by the user interface.~~

17. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises a touchscreen.

18. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that elicit a “YES” or a “NO” user response.

19. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that are phrases having two or more words.

20. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the one or more schedule parameters are HVAC schedule parameters.

21. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the one or more schedule parameters are security system schedule parameters.

22. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

23. (currently amended) A controller comprising:  
schedule means for providing a programmable schedule, the programmable schedule having a number of schedule parameters; and

user interface means adapted and configured to provide two ~~one~~ or more interview questions to a user, and to accept one or more user responses to each of the ~~one~~ two or more interview questions from the user, said two or more interview questions including at least one interview question eliciting a discrete numerical value from the user relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule;

wherein, the controller modifies one or more of the schedule parameters based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of programming a schedule of a controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more interview questions to a user via the user interface, said one or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule;

accepting one or more discrete numerical values as user responses to the one or more interview questions from the user via the user interface;

translating the one or more discrete numerical values ~~user responses~~ to form a translated response including one or more setpoints; and

modifying one or more of the schedule parameters based on the translated response.

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25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that elicit a "YES" or a "NO" user response.

26. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are natural language questions.

27. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that are phrases having three or more words.

28. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the modifying step comprises modifying one or more HVAC schedule parameters.

29. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the modifying step comprises modifying one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.

30. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

31. (currently amended) A controller comprising:

a programmable schedule, the schedule having a number of schedule parameters;

a user interface, adapted and configured to provide one or more interview questions to a user, and to accept one or more discrete numerical values as user responses to each of at least one of the one or more interview questions from the user, said one or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule; and

a translator, adapted and configured to translate the one or more discrete numerical values of the user responses to form a translated response;

wherein, the number of schedule parameters are modified based on the translated response.

32. (original) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that elicit a "YES" or a "NO" user response.

33. (original) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that are phrases having two or more words.

34. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein ~~the~~ one or more of the schedule parameters are HVAC schedule parameters.



35. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein ~~the~~ one or more of the schedule parameters are security system schedule parameters.

36. (original) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

37. (currently amended) A method of programming a schedule of a controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

sequentially providing a number of ~~predetermined~~ queries to a user via the user interface, at least one of said queries relating to the user's comfort and at least another one of the queries related to a user's schedule; and

accepting user responses to at least selected queries, the sequence of queries adapted to collect sufficient information from the user responses to generate at least a major portion of the schedule parameters.

38. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing step comprises sequentially providing a number of ~~predetermined~~ queries that elicit a "YES" or a "NO" user response.

39. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing step comprises sequentially providing a number of ~~predetermined~~ queries that are context sensitive to the user response.

40. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[37]] 39, wherein the accepting step comprises determining the number and/or sequence of queries based on the user responses to the context sensitive queries.

41. (original) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of generating HVAC schedule parameters using the user responses accepted during the accepting step.

42. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein one or more of the ~~modifying step comprises generating~~ schedule parameters are lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.

43. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing a number of ~~predetermined~~ queries step includes sequentially providing a number of queries related to, which weekdays will have a same schedule, when a first person wakes up, when a last person goes to sleep, when a last person leaves during the day, when a first person arrives home, what a comfortable temperature is when heat is on, what a comfortable

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temperature is when air conditioning is on, what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in summer, or what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in winter.

44. (original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing step comprises sequentially providing one or more queries that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.